

## **P-39: Youth-Centered Tobacco Prevention Program**

**Venue:** Schools

**Goal:** Preventing Initiation of Tobacco Use

**Sponsoring Organization:** Edmonds School District

**Abstract:** Edmonds School District Nurses applied for and received a grant from the American Lung Association to implement a youth-centered tobacco prevention program. The program provided all-school tobacco awareness and uses the Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) peer education model. Nurses, teachers, other school staff, community volunteers and parents were trained to be adult advisors and education assistants. Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades from four high schools were trained to be peer mentors and presented tobacco education to 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students from two middle schools.

**Recommendations:** Get advice from someone who has program experience, so you don't have to begin from scratch. If possible, hire a full time person to devote themselves to the program, or someone to help with administrative paperwork. Get everyone involved! Utilize the knowledge and skills of school nurses, health teachers, physical education teachers, science teachers, drug and alcohol counselors, video production teachers, educational assistants, parents, and community volunteers.

**Contact for more information:**

Patrice VanDuine

Edmonds School District

(425) 670-7311 x1074

[vanduinep@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:vanduinep@edmonds.wednet.edu)